

# Manitou Incline Task Force Meeting

February 11, 2010

Location: Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue  
Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance: Christian Lieber, Aimee Cox, Dan Folke, Kira Pasquesi, Lisa Rosintoski, Eric Billmeyer, Steve Bremner, Spencer Wren, Marc Straub, Neal Yowell, Sarah Tresouthick, Val St. Cloud, Frank Landis, Kim Reaves, Ben Carlson

Absent: Bill Koerner

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**Introductions** – Task Force members introduced themselves.

**Roles and Expectations** – The Task Force reviewed the Roles and Expectations as outlined in participant notebooks. Members discussed the need to make more people aware of the planning process. Staff responded that a broad public process would begin when a consultant was selected. It was suggested that the members tour the Incline. Most members expressed familiarity with the area, but a tour was widely supported once a consultant is selected. It was also suggested that the Task Force was large enough to create subgroups for research when needed.

**Review Meeting Notes** – Meeting notes were revised to reflect that several members did not support adding a military representative to the Task Force.

**Review Issues and Identify Other Community Expertise** – Participants reviewed the issues presented at the 1/14/10 meeting and identified additional resources that could be called upon for research and recommendations. Issues and resources follow:

Drainage/Sediment

- Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI)

Water line

- CSU

Traffic/Safety

- Ruxton residents, Cog (seasonal data), Manitou Ave. merchants, City of Manitou Springs/Nolte – Ruxton & Manitou traffic counts
- Must consider emergency access

Parking

- Manitou Springs Metro Board, Parking Authority Board, Street Car Study, CS Parking Enterprise, Manitou Springs Parking Plan
- Tajine Alami, motels – property owners with space
- MSED and Manitou Springs City Council for parking manager

Hours of Operation

- Adjacent neighbors; collect hours of operation of surrounding uses

#### Access Points

- MSFD and MSPD for emergency access, neighborhood, users

#### Funding – Capital & Ongoing

- Military, USOC

#### Barr Trail

- Friends of the Peak, Bob Bunch, Spencer Johnson, CSU study

#### Mapping Network

- Friends of the Peak, El Paso County, Incline Club, “Trail Dogs” (Friends of the Peak)
- Must include Ute Trail

#### Emergency Access

- MSFD/MSPD, El Paso County Search & Rescue, Pikes Peak Marathon, Barr Trail Mountain Race
- Need adequate space for emergency vehicles

#### Conditions of Ruxton/Hydro

- Manitou Springs Public Works

#### Parking & Restrooms (Trailhead)

- Staging area – Cog, CSU, Jenkins property, Friends of the Peak (portable toilets)

#### Dogs

- Users in public process, Humane Society
- Jurisdictional rules (leash law)

#### Enforcement

- City of Colorado Springs; MSPD

#### Volunteer Stewardship

- Friends of the Peak, CS Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (stewardship plans)

#### Historic

- Miramonte, Pioneers Museum, Manitou Springs Heritage Center, Cog Railway

#### Passive Areas

- Users – how is area used now

#### Liability

- Consult with landowners
  - Does charging change liability
  - Do governments need to manage because of liability

#### Barr Trail Maintenance

- CSU/Manitou Springs Parking Lot agreement (parking lot fees)

#### Dream a Little (Public Process Ideas)

- Dream City 2020, Carol Woodward – Everyday democracy

**Define the Possibilities** – Task Force members were asked to provide concise responses to the questions “What would success look like?” and “What would failure look like?” in the planning

process. Success statements described the project goal. Failure statements defined the boundary of the process. The space between success and failure represents the areas of opportunity and compromise.

Success was described as:

- The Incline to be opened to the public and work cohesively with the Cog and downtown businesses and residents regarding parking, management, and economics.
- Effectively managed, revenue generating new attraction coordinated with a city wide parking plan.
- Community based plan embraced by the owners.
- Looking at the primary use for the Incline – Hiking steep! Not picnicking, etc. Focus... Having ONE group have all management.
- A sustainable trail both on the incline and Barr Trail that is safe, enjoyable, and ecologically sound.
- Less or same traffic on Ruxton, annual/semi-annual PAID passes to Incline.
- Legal, well managed, sustainable recreational trail.
- A managed Incline generating revenue with a parking facility at Tajine Alami with shuttles through downtown and picnic facilities at the top.
- Comprehensive authority to regulate, administer, and control Incline usage and associated aspects (crowd control, parking, restrooms, etc.)
- Maintaining the essence of the Incline but improving circulation and traffic issues through the designation of a staging area/trailhead.
- Effective, comprehensive “management” of Mt. Manitou Incline for users, residents, and visitors.
- Where each stakeholder feels like they got something positive.
- An open attraction that draws a diverse mix of users from a wide region contributing both prestige as well as tourist dollars to the region.
- Citizens safely and legally recreate on the Incline and the cities work cooperatively together for years to come.

Failure was described as:

- To continue to have conflict with the Cog and residents, and to continue to keep the Incline closed.
- A final outcome that is worse than what we have now (completely fenced off and closed).
- Status as is does not work. Need to do something.
- Maintain status quo (failure to move forward)
- Allowing the environmental impacts, like erosion, to deteriorate the condition of the trail, making it unsafe for users.
- Trail remains illegal.
- Incomplete plan; used as a bookend.
- More congestion on Ruxton and waste of money spent on consultants.
- Law suits, continued parking problems for residents and Cog.
- “Status Quo” of 2007-2010 = complete failure.
- We do not reach out to a diversity of public voices or thoughtfully consider their input.

- Business as usual; double decker parking on Ruxton.
- Everything stays as it is now!
- An unidentified stakeholder comes forth with deal breaking issues (at end of project).

**Public Comment** – None.

**Next Meeting** – March 11, 2010  
6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.  
Manitou Springs City Hall Council Chambers  
606 Manitou Avenue